The Cleveland Museum of Art
A world of great art for everyone

11150 East Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio
44106–1797

Tel 216–421–7340
Fax 216–229–5095
www.clevelandart.org

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Donna Brock
216-707-2260

The Cleveland Museum of Art Names Barbara S. Robinson to Board

Accomplished Artist Extends Lifetime Arts Advocacy to Museum's Mission

CLEVELAND (Aug. 28, 2003) — The Cleveland Museum of Art Director Katharine Lee Reid announced today the appointment of Barbara S. Robinson to the Museum's board of trustees.

Reid also announced the appointment of two additional trustees, Virginia Nord Barbato and Sarah S. (Sally) Cutler.

Robinson is the widow of the late Larry J. B. Robinson who owned J.B. Robinson Jewelers, a national chain of 94 jewelry stores, which he sold before purchasing radio stations and becoming a venture capitalist. She is an accomplished artist in her own right and has devoted much of her life's work to advocating for the arts.

She is a 1951 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Wellesley College where she studied piano and performed as a soloist with the New England Conservatory of Music and the Boston Pops Orchestra while still a student. After earning her MBA from Harvard University (Radcliffe College) in 1952, she continued to study music and performed with myriad chamber music groups. She joined the faculty of the Cleveland Institute of Music in the late 1960s and recently competed her term as an overseer of Harvard University.

In a 1996 *Cleveland Jewish News* article, she noted that "anybody who has been involved in the arts as a performer or an educator has very strong feelings about the importance of the arts to the community, to individuals and to the world as a whole." Upon joining the Cleveland Museum of Art board, she noted "this Museum provides a most wonderful forum for the entire community. We must preserve and safeguard its mission so that future generations will benefit from all that is so freely offered here."

Robinson's leadership and activism in the arts is exemplary. She is presently chair of Arts Midwest, a regional arts service organization for nine Midwest/Great Lakes states. From 1978 to 1983, she served as president of the former Cleveland Ballet, which required her to build a ballet audience in a market where there was none. Beginning in 1983, she assumed chairmanship of the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) and currently serves as Chairman Emeritus for the Council. Under her leadership, the OAC became the forerunner of state arts councils. She also worked through the Council to make the arts an integral part of the state's educational curriculum. For example, the original Education 2000 bill excluded the arts as a prerequisite for high school graduation. Robinson worked through the Council, lobbying for and ultimately securing its inclusion. Robinson also founded Young Audiences of Greater Cleveland, a program that connects some 6,000 city and suburban students in grades K-12 to local arts and cultural programming.

(more)

Robinson's crusade for the arts also has embraced national interests. During her unprecedented four terms of service as chairwoman of the National Assembly of States Arts Agencies, Robinson and her colleagues worked tirelessly in support of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), which then Sen. Jesse Helms was attempting to eliminate. During the 1990s, following Helms' defeat on the issue, she watched as support for the NEA steadily increased.

Her extensive community involvement bespeaks her great love of the arts and for others. She has been active in: The Musical Arts Association of the Cleveland Orchestra, the Cleveland Lyric Opera, the Visual and Performing Arts Center, the Jewish Community Center and the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cleveland.

In 2001, she received a Cleveland Arts Prize special citation for distinguished service to the arts. Robinson's affiliation with the Cleveland Museum of Art has been a close one. She and her late husband, who was among the first class of honorary trustees of the Museum, sponsored the Museum's 2000—2001 VIVA! Festival of the Performing Arts and The Gala Music Series, and have given generously of their time and resources over the years. She is a member of the Museum's Collector's Circle, the Contemporary Arts Society, the Print Club of Cleveland, the Trideca Society and the Women's Council.

Reid said of Robinson, "We are privileged to have Barbara on our board. She models for us the very highest form of leadership and advocacy in the arts. She inspires and energizes us with her enthusiasm. And she enlightens us with her vast and deep experience."

The Cleveland Museum of Art receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The museum is a pivotal international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the Museum, is holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

# # #